

National Republican.

W. J. MURTAGH, PROPRIETOR

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JOHN MORRISSEY.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the revelations which TWEED is now making as to the methods by which the corrupt ring which he organized robbed the public. A famous English author gained no little fame by a work entitled "Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts." If he had lived long enough to have heard the wondrous story of TWEED's wholesale stealing he would doubtless have favored the world with a kindred treatise on robbery, History, even when exposing and reprobating the great crimes of humanity, necessarily gives them a certain dignity which wins for them the same kind of admiration which is awarded to actors upon the stage who play persons wicked characters. It is, therefore, quite important that the press should fearlessly sweep upon the darkest features of all infamous public crimes, and place the seal of its condemnation upon worthy men no matter how successful soever they may have been in attaining high places by dishonest means.

TWEED's position as one of the most infamous of mankind is irrevocably fixed. The lessons of his career will hereafter form an important chapter of political history which it will be necessary for all to study who wish to become familiar with the peculiar perils to which popular governments are exposed. Although TWEED will be the leading character in that chapter, he will not be without conspicuous companions in his infamy. Chief among these will be JOHN MORRISSEY, whose prominence in American politics for the last fifteen years has been a national disgrace.

The discredit which MORRISSEY has brought upon the country is exceedingly humiliating in view of his scandalous biography, as sketched by TWEED. These charges, although repudiated by public attention by such a disreputable person, are but facts of undisputed history. It is a matter of record that MORRISSEY was indicted in New York for assaulting T. H. BULMER with a dangerous weapon with intent to kill; indicted for burglary and assault and battery in April, 1849, sentenced to jail for sixty days; indicted for burglary in June of the same year; convicted of breach of the peace in Albany and sentenced to pay a fine of \$500. He served all of this in the Albany penitentiary at hard labor in case of non-payment, July 15, 1851, and served nine months in the penitentiary, serving out this term; in 1857 he was indicted in New York for assaulting T. H. BULMER with a dangerous weapon with intent to kill him; he was also indicted for a felonious assault on W. P. CONWAY with intent to kill, and another upon F. P. DODGE. In addition to having thus thrice attempted to place the brand of murderer upon his forehead, he has been a professional prize-fighter, a gambler, a proprietor of the lowest dens in New York, the resort of thieves and men of the basest character. Last, but not least, he has repeatedly assailed the liberties of the people by corrupting the ballot-box by means of his organized bands of ruffians.

It is enough to bring a blush of shame to the cheeks of every true American to remember, in view of the above facts, that MORRISSEY has occupied a seat in the American Congress, that he has been a Senator of the State of New York, and that he has been honored by the companionship of statesmen, and of persons who would be despised not to be called gentlemen. The fact that JOHN MORRISSEY was, during the last Presidential campaign, the trusted friend and associate of SAMUEL J. TILDEN, is a powerful proof of how demoralized the moral sentiment of our public men has become. While Mr. TILDEN was thus associating with MORRISSEY, he not only knew how infamous his past history had been, but he knew that he was even then every day violating the law as a gambler.

We do not refer to the conspicuous example of Mr. TILDEN in condoning crime for any partisan purposes, and we are ready to freely admit that prominent Republican leaders have been too often guilty of giving countenance to bad men because they possessed political influence with the most depraved and dangerous classes of society. The subject is one about which there is great necessity for plain talk. Wicked men like MORRISSEY hold entirely too much power. That power has been acquired by the weak subversive of our political leaders. Their conduct deserves the reprobation of all who wish well to the Republic, for the practice of clinging to men congenitally bad has given even greater influence in public affairs.

It is enough to bring a blush of shame to the cheeks of every true American to remember, in view of the above facts, that MORRISSEY has occupied a seat in the National Capital. The embellishment of the city should be made a subject of constant study by persons of scholarly taste, and especially by those who are familiar with the history of our country. Every patriotic American should desire to see this Capital rendered more beautiful from the dolphin heads that will be located at the base of the monument. A walk will extend all around just on the outside of the basin, and will be bordered by a low, ornamental coping, which will form a causeway to four plantings, one on each side of the monument. Entrances of suitable design will be made opposite the four corners of the monument. The design will be simple, but will harmonize with the plan and simplicity to which the general taste of our citizens is so cultivated as to prompt detect and condemn all attempts at embellishment which may be in bad taste. Art studies should therefore engage a great deal of the attention of Washingtonians.

The proposed labor exchange naturally suggests some inquiries as to methods in which the city might encourage labor. We have the street sweeping machine, which costs the city \$40,000 per year. There is no doubt that with such a machine money could be saved, and with judicious management during the winter months, at say \$3 per week for a limited time only, many men could manage to live. The work is light and not exacting as to time. This may be considered low pay, but the greater number could be employed at these rates, and it is doubtful whether if any charities reach this class it would average one cent per hour. The cost of the machine would be paid by the other vassals. Let us have no such houses. Much work could be done on our boundary circling—a portion of the city—by judicious employment of surplus labor, turning it into a grand drive, with ornamental shrubbery, and making it a first-class boulevard. Some adventurous colonizing laborers in the West. Much could be saved by colonization among them, for what cost to the country? The West could pay the expenses of a farm in Virginia or Maryland of 100 acres, and the year's allowance proposed to be given, and the year's allowance proposed to be given, if used for the improvement of the land, would more than compensate for making purchases near good markets.

AN ESTIMATED CORRESPONDENT suggests that the banking facilities afforded to the citizens of Washington are very limited. Our business men have to pay eight percent, whereas in Baltimore only six percent is charged. It is also suggested that the banks in Washington have great difficulty in getting loans, in addition to charging a high rate of interest, exact the best collateral and double expense. In commercial cities every encouragement is offered to business houses, and manufacturers of standing; here commercial interest and high integrity do not attract. Banks here loan money at seven percent, to favorables to re-deem when depositors of stock are to be paid. It is suggested that it would be well for the stock-holders and directors to see that their institutions are not run by individual caprices. Of course there are exceptions to all rules. The times have been when work was brought to this city, from other cities, and hundreds of people employed. Did our banks aid it? Did they step forward with the promptness to encourage this home industry? They have not done so. It is suggested that the stability of our free institutions. Happily it is not too late to establish the supremacy of the political maxims by which the founders of the nation were guided, the chief ones of which taught that the preservation of sound public morality is essential to the perpetuity of a republic of government.

THE BALLOT BOX.

The importance of preserving the purity of the ballot-box cannot well be exaggerated. Unless that agency for the expression of the popular will is securely guarded from a despotic government becomes a mockery, for the will of the majority is threatened by a bold and always depraved minority. In the rural districts there has never been much trouble in preserving the purity of the ballot-box, both because a higher moral tone prevails in such regions, and because the opportunities of committing frauds are not so good.

One of the most difficult problems connected with the subject of municipal government is the one of devising some plan by which fair and honest elections may be secured. The disclosure which the testimony of TWEED makes as to the manner in which the contents of the ballot-box were disregarded while he had control of the government of the city of New York shows the dangers to which popular elections are exposed in all the great cities of the country.

The following questions and answers in TWEED's examination render the extent of this trial very manifest:

AT THE CAPITOL.
OUTSIDE WORK COMPLETED AND PROGRESSING.

LABOR EMPLOYED—CONDITION OF THE LAWNS, DRIVES, WALKS AND CIRCLES—NAVAL MONUMENT FOUNTAIN—CONTENDED GRAND MARBLE TERRACE—OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS.

In case you wanted a particular sum elected over a certain sum? Well, we should count the ballots in bulk, or, without counting them, announce the result in bulk, or change the totals to suit the result, as the case required.

Q. Then the tallies made no difference as to the result? A. The ballots made no results as the counters made the result.

MR. HARVEY B. RODGERS, Superintendent of the Bindery at the Government Printing Office, has gone East on a week's pleasure trip.

MR. H. M. BAKER, of Boston, has taken

the "Husband of Mine," founded on the popular

LAWNS OF THE EAST PARK,

have been completed and the shrubbery all set out.

The seedlings have been set in the most carefully. Knolls, blue grass, and

and clover have been used.

The general view is grand. All the trees and shrubs have been remarkable for their growth and healthfulness, scarcely one having been lost.

During the past year over thirty large trees and fifty small ones have been transplanted, and one hundred

ORNITAL PLANE TREES

have been imported. Seventy-one hundred and thirty-seven plants and trees have been set out.

The plants of the parks are now in bloom, presenting a most charming sight.

LARGE TREES TRANSPLANTED.

It has frequently been asserted that large trees could not be transplanted with safety. The experience on the Capitol grounds, however, has been highly gratifying. More than one hundred such trees have been transplanted, and only two have died.

One of the defects of the old park was

that it was not maintained in a

neat and orderly condition.

The Board of Police sat last evening.

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